

# A Multidimensional Analysis of the Higher Music Education Quality' Dilemma

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**Abstract:** According to the development stage of music education proposed by Martin turow, music education in colleges and universities in China has already entered the popular stage, and in the popular process, it is also faced with the problem of quality improvement. How to solve these problems has become a must and urgent problem in the development of music education in Chinese universities. This paper analyzes the music educational quality dilemma faced by Chinese colleges and universities from the perspectives of economics, education and psychology, which will be beneficial to comprehensively grasp the music educational quality problems faced by Chinese colleges and universities.

## 1. Introduction

As colleges and universities music education popularization of development, in colleges and universities music education and popular, both in the scale of recruit students of the school itself or in a sharp expansion, publicity of university music education input pressure increasing, and after joining the WTO and economic globalization talents competition, colleges and universities music education and social interaction has been more and more closely, more and more frequent. Under the comprehensive promotion of these factors, music education quality in colleges and universities has become a common concern of people from all walks of life in the society, and has become an urgent problem to be solved in the development process of music education in colleges and universities. Quality is the cornerstone of survival and development, and the education quality of colleges and universities is also the cornerstone of music education survival and development, which has become a consensus from all walks of life. Of course, since the expansion of college enrollment in China, many experts have expressed their views on the quality of college education, but few comprehensive analyses on it. Why does music education quality of colleges and universities appear such predicament, exactly what factor is affecting the improvement of music education quality of colleges and universities? In fact, it involves multiple disciplines, multiple factors and multiple levels of quite complex issues, and it is impossible to comprehensively grasp and analyze it just from a certain aspect. This paper will analyze it from the theoretical perspective of multiple disciplines combined with the theoretical basis of higher education itself.

## 2. From the Perspective of Economics: The Decrease of Per Student Funding and the Path Dependence of Professional Curriculum

In Brubeck's philosophy of higher education music, there is a clear reference to the question "for whom does higher education music serve?" and the two related aspects that affect this question are: the talent of students and the nature of academic courses, each of which depends on the other. [1] in fact, this problem is for colleges and universities music education service object, obviously, in the school of the university students is the colleges and universities music education service object, service for students in colleges and universities to the students' accomplishment constantly improve, the most direct bridge to link between students and colleges and universities is the services provided

by the colleges and universities for students. At the same time, the most direct task of providing this service is precisely to ensure and constantly improve the quality of education in schools. Then, the analysis of the education quality in colleges and universities can also from the nature of the students' ability and academic courses, obviously "colleges and universities music education services" for who with colleges and universities music education quality in colleges and universities are presented in the service object, and they talked about the substantive issues are the quality of service provided by colleges and universities for students, then the two latitude became the best breakthrough point of this problem. The following will start from the two dimensions mentioned above and conduct detailed analysis in combination with Grecian's law and path dependence principle in economics.

### **2.1. Grecian's Law**

According to Cardin Turow's music education development theory, music education in Chinese universities has already entered the popular development stage, just as he stated, in this development period, the quality of music education in universities is becoming extremely prominent. In the development history of higher education in China, the objects of universities are limited to a small number of academic elites to a large extent, because music education in colleges and universities is always scarce in resources before it enters the popularization stage, and of course only a small number of elites can be allowed to enter colleges and universities. <sup>[2]</sup>So the ability of these students is relatively strong on the whole, at least in the level of learning and research in the leading position of their peers, it is no doubt. But students break the balance, its purpose is to let the general within the school-age youth to enter university, the university should do their best to accept the broad masses of young students, which leads to a large number of relatively mediocre students entered the university, the university of the rapid enlargement of scale leads to the "education", originally just for elite students pay money after enrollment expansion has relatively mediocre students also participate in the sharing, continue this way can make college music education quality declining, encourage academic Grecian's law. Grecian's law is an economic phenomenon in which bad money drives out good. If two kinds of COINS have the same face value but are made of metals of different value, then the money with lower value will take the money with higher price out of circulation. The history of this development can be traced back to the 16th century. In the 19th century this development was wrongly attributed to Grecian, founder of the royal exchange of London, known as Grecian's law. <sup>[2]</sup> One of the most obvious phenomenon is that originally belong to the elite level of the students have already lost the special environment, as originally invested in them resources have been denied by others, the ability to relatively outstanding students cannot be attracted the attention they deserved, both hardware and software have been changed, this is probably the biggest difficulties of music education quality now in colleges and universities.

Analysis from the Angle of the level, perhaps on the students' overall ability and quality, can through to the increase in colleges and universities music education investment to achieve a relative balance, but the reality is that, although the colleges and universities can be in addition to the government's fiscal support of many economic sources, but the country's fiscal spending is still a major source of economy in most of the colleges and universities in China. According to the education career statistical yearbook and China statistical yearbook, the data show that from 1991 to 2002, with the continuous development of our country's economy, the education funds investment is increased a lot, from the original 73.1 billion increased to 548 billion in 2002, but investment growth rate far not overtake the number of ordinary university students growth, which proves that the embrace of education funds investment above has already formed the declining trend, so is infer Grecian's law becomes as the fact. <sup>[3]</sup>In addition, music education expansion in Chinese colleges and universities has been accelerating since 2002, which is actually a problem of moderation principle. The development of higher education cannot be endless. Only by finding a balance point can we prevent the phenomenon of "good money expelling bad money".

### **2.2. Path Dependence**

Path dependence was proposed by north, an important representative of new institutional economics.

The so-called path dependence means that once a system is established, it will strengthen and consolidate itself. Figuratively, it resembles the "inertia" of physics, which, once it enters a path (whether "good" or "bad"), is likely to be generated by the path. As north says, "the choices people make in the past determine the choices they can make." Because it is always more convenient to follow the existing institutional arrangements and the established direction than to follow another path. <sup>[4]</sup>It can be seen that path dependence is conducive to consolidating and strengthening the original institutional arrangement and hindering the new institutional arrangement, even if the new institutional arrangement is more reasonable. It is the underlying reasons for the formation of the interest factor, to form a system, can form some kind of vested interest groups in the existing system, in other words, these interest groups have strong demand on the system, they will consolidate the existing system, to reform the further deepening and development of, even if the new system is more efficient than the existing system.

Obviously, in terms of the nature of professional academic courses, many interest groups are involved, and there is also the problem of path dependence. "Status quo" for both the curriculum and curriculum teaching methods and so on existing mechanisms are more convenient, on the contrary, to adapt to change both the curriculum mechanism will need to pay a big cost, the cost is to give up part of the original have and teachers in a professional human resource to loss, because the curriculum and professional setting is closely related, major setting adjustment will inevitably lead to the corresponding course, today's rapidly changing social development, colleges and universities of professional Settings must follow closely the development of the society and the development of the economy.

At this level, the college teachers actually hinder the adjustment of the strong resistance of professional courses, college teachers, as a specialized very strong professional, every professional teachers have professional knowledge, skills, and knowledge have specificity, such as its strong professional this feature also determines its cannot be easily applied to other professional, professional and adjustment of the curriculum in colleges and universities means that give up existing specialized human capital is equal to give up the past for the purposes of this professional investment cost of investment, including direct monetary investment cost, opportunity cost, etc. At the same time, it also proves that the adjustment of professional curriculum setting needs to pay a lot of costs, and it is much more convenient if the original status is maintained. Therefore, the phenomenon of path dependence is quite prominent in the adjustment of professional curriculum setting and professional curriculum. What is the ultimate result of this phenomenon? That is the stagnation or even regression of the quality of higher education, social and economic development of the construction of colleges and universities put forward new requirements. <sup>[5]</sup>However, the vested interests in colleges and universities are still old fashioned and self-centered, and they still support maintaining the status quo for the majors and courses in schools that can no longer adapt to social development. Students often fall victim to the phenomenon of path dependence, because path dependence is not only reflected in the school's professional curriculum, but also in such aspects as teachers' teaching methods and student training programs. These are all important factors that affect the improvement of the quality of college education, which may have been quite effective training methods, but may not be suitable for students in the new era and even have negative effects. So should we change it? Under the influence of path dependence principle, colleges and universities still choose to use the original training mechanism, and their choice will eventually lead to the low quality of education.

### **3. Pedagogical Perspectives: The Dislocation Between the Trend of Thought of Attachment Theory and the Choice of University Development Mode**

#### **3.1. The Trend of Thought of Attachment Theory is Serious**

Attachment theory was a trend of thought in Latin America in the middle of the 20th century. It analyzes the reasons why developing countries are underdeveloped from the macro background of

the world system and tries to seek strategies for these countries to develop. Based on dependency theory, comparative education scholars analyze and study the phenomenon of "center" and "edge" existing in the international education pattern, analyze the negative consequences brought by science and technology and education dependency to developing countries, and propose Suggestions for developing countries' development direction. From the perspective of attachment theory, Altbach studied music educational relations in universities around the world. He believes that music education in the world's universities has an obvious tendency, that is, music education in the world's universities is attached to music education in developed countries. In music educational relations among universities in the world, he divided the international knowledge system into two categories: "center" and "edge".

As a developing country of college music education, our country's colleges and universities music education for foreign born theory has always been quite agree, especially after the reform and opening up, China's education profession is keen on the introduction of foreign education and its theory, interpretation, and example of applications, from other subjects in the study for the premise of deductive type application level. However, it is often lack of originality, lack of research based on the actual situation of music education in Chinese universities, and lack of using different means to obtain materials based on the needs and problems of the development of education in China. In fact, it is lack of creativity. With local characteristics of the creation of education theory, especially the need to obtain from China education time, realize the theory and the time of the bidirectional interaction and common growth, create a new type of theory and practice, the relationship between changes in the past on the theory and practice are attached to the foreign countries, the phenomenon of previous studies are mainly inhibit, from simple explanation foreign theory into their practice to create theory. Only by analyzing and studying the external theories and experiences combined with the actual situation of our country can we get the localization theory suitable for the development of our country's education. Attachment phenomenon in colleges and universities music education to introduce the most, the biggest impact, indeed foreign advanced concept of higher education for our country's colleges and universities music education has the very good guidance, but if too dependent on foreign theory, and finally the introduction of theory can only become a castle in the air, does not produce its effects, such as now many college students in learning foreign language teaching materials directly, but nobody to fastidious about the practicability of the textbooks, teachers' task is teaching, for the content of the course will give students solve China's practical problems often do not understand.

### **3.2. The Dislocation of University Development Mode Selection**

The quality problem of music education in colleges and universities has been encountered abroad. According to Cole's "the function of universities", he pointed out the "golden age" of music education in the world and American colleges and universities in the post-war twenty-five years. However, the excessive pursuit of scale expansion and neglect of the academic quality of universities greatly affect the development of "popular" colleges and universities. <sup>[4]</sup>In cole's view, a society should have at least three types of institutions of higher learning: the X model, whose main task is to train graduate students, conduct scientific research and select undergraduates; Y mode, whose main task is to carry out professional training and general education quality training for undergraduates according to the needs of social occupation; The task of the Z model is to cultivate practical talents according to any needs of the society and the choice of customers. He also proposed that three models can be distinguished by the severity of selection. Generally strict selection; Non-selection model. The first model is best undertaken at national and international levels. The second model operates at the national and regional level. The third model serves at the regional or local level.

After such a long history, I think the development model of universities proposed by Cole should be more suitable for the development of Chinese universities. In this way, the development mode of colleges and universities is classified by distinguishing the training objects and training levels, which can make the development of colleges and universities more closely related to the education quality

of colleges and universities. <sup>[5]</sup>However, how do Chinese colleges and universities choose their development mode? The answer is that their development is not differentiated development at all. Except for a few top traditional universities, most institutions of higher learning have entered a vicious circle, that is, they are all developing on the model Y or crowding into the group of the model X beyond their ability. Let's not discuss the latter here. Y pattern, of course, for most colleges and universities should be their final destination, they are put to force in cultivating students of undergraduate level, try to provide the high quality of undergraduate course graduation personnel for the society, but there is a moderate principle, the development of colleges and universities today, Z model has been abandoned, we how can only adapt to Z mode of running a school school originally entered the Y model? Considering the development of such situation, how can the education quality of these colleges and universities be guaranteed? How can the school provide high-quality undergraduate education for students when the hardware and software of the school cannot guarantee the normal undergraduate education? Therefore, in fact, the country can refer to Kohl's selection mechanism to strictly select China's college system and strictly implement the classification and selection.

#### **4. Psychological Perspective: A View of Satisfaction**

What is satisfaction? This is related to the "university music education in the end for whom to serve" problem, above has given a clear answer, that is the vast number of college students in school. Then in the process of providing service for the students in the university, the university will become the service provider, and the students will be in the position of customers accordingly, and the concept of satisfaction will definitely be involved here. Furthermore, although music education in Chinese universities has not been fully industrialized, the distance between universities and the market is getting closer. Of course, the relationship between schools and students may not be exactly like this, but for the convenience of research, this paper tentatively defines the two. So what exactly is satisfaction? Domestic experts and scholars believe that customer satisfaction refers to how customers feel about the products provided by enterprises (companies) to meet their requirements (demands and expectations). <sup>[6]</sup>so the satisfaction degree of the students for the school should be the student services provided by the school meet the requirements of the degree of feelings, as a result, it can be seen that the student's satisfaction is the school students for the school service, also it is the education service quality is the most direct feeling, satisfaction is also reflect the quality of education in colleges and universities is an important indicator.

#### **5. Conclusions**

As the life of the existence and development of colleges and universities, the importance of education quality is self-evident. In the process of continuous development of music education in Chinese universities, although there are many problems in the quality of education, the experience of many western countries tells us that it is completely possible to solve this problem if enough attention is paid to it and corresponding measures are taken. And combining with economics, education and psychology of education of our country in view of the quality system by the troubles of the multivariate analysis, from the China college students spending, professional curriculum, development pattern in colleges and universities, colleges and universities music education theory to problems of school and college students satisfaction, perspective of college music education quality conducted a comprehensive analysis, of course, the college music education have a lot of quality problem, in this paper, it is impossible to include all in, can only extract the individual thinks the most important phenomenal analysis. Institutions of higher learning for the comprehensive construction well-off society in the 21st century, the training of specialists in the field of tens of millions of meter and the burden of a large number of creative talents, do a good job in a let people satisfied college music education, improve the quality of education, set up the college music education of coordinated, sustainable and scientific development concept, to China's huge population

pressure into the rich human resources advantage, it is a new era for colleges and universities have put forward new requirements.

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